



Physical Evidence Bulletin

Questioned Documents Section

Purpose The physical evidence bulletin is a guideline intended for law enforcement agencies to follow in order to submit evidence to BFS Laboratories. Physical Evidence bulletins are not intended to be used in lieu of training in the collection of evidence.

Analysis and results that may be obtained The Bureau of Forensic Services (BFS) provides analytical support to law enforcement agencies through the determination of authorship or authenticity of a document.

TYPES OF EXAMINATIONS PERFORMED:

1. Handwriting (signatures, handwriting, hand printing, or numbers)
2. Mechanical Impressions (typewritten or computer generated documents, typewriter ribbons, impressions, or rubberstamps)
3. Ink examinations
4. ESDA (visualize or restore indented impressions on paper)
5. Alterations/Obliterations/Restoration (erasures, charred, water soaked or faded documents, and sequence of writing)
6. Papers (torn paper matches, reconstruction, watermarks, folds, tapes and adhesives or staple holes)
7. Computer Generated Documents

The resulting report will include a summary of findings related to the examination(s) conducted.

Minimum evidence required Whenever possible, original evidence should be submitted, along with a completed Physical Evidence Submission Form, attached to the outside of all evidence packaging.

Collection, marking, and packaging All evidence items need to generally be packaged and taped sealed inside of a manila envelope. Please do not write on top of the documents or on top of the manila envelope.

CAUTIONS Be careful not to write on top of the evidence and take precautions if latent print processing is needed.

**For further
information
and additional
resources**

Please contact the Questioned Documents Section at:

State of California
Department of Justice
Questioned Document Section
4949 Broadway, Room F147
Sacramento, CA 95820

Phone: 916-227-3623 Fax: 916-227-4079

For a list of regional laboratories please go to:

http://ag.ca.gov/bfs/pdf/bfs_brochure.pdf or <http://ag.ca.gov/bfs/>

To locate the most current Physical Evidence Bulletins please go to:

<http://ag.ca.gov/cc/reference/reference.php#peb>
